

## OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

From the works of P.G.Wodehouse

# Jeeves & Wooster

in

## 'PERFECT NONSENSE'

by The Goodale Brothers



Poor Bertie Wooster! In the soup again. Jeeves to the rescue!

**MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE**  
off Emsworth Road, Shirley, SO15 3LX

**Fri 29 May - Sat 6 June**  
Doors open at 7pm, Performances at 7:30pm

Full details and on-line booking at:  
[maskers.org.uk](http://maskers.org.uk)

Tickets £16.50  
Registered charity 900067

Telephone booking:  
0333 666 3366

This amateur production of "Perfect Nonsense" is presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books



**BOOKING: Via link on our website  
[maskers.org.uk](http://maskers.org.uk) or 0333 666 3366**

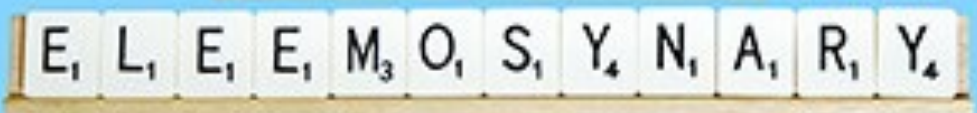
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Registered charity no.900067

A story of mothers, daughters,  
and the language of reconciliation

BY L, E, E, B, L, E, S, S, I, N, G,



**MASKERS**  
theatre company



### Programme

27th April — 2nd May 2026

**Maskers Studio Theatre**

This amateur production of *Eleemosynary* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.  
[www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

Registered Charity no. 900067

[maskers.org.uk](http://maskers.org.uk)

## Director's Notes

The most common reaction to this play has been "It's called what? Ele... El...som... I can't pronounce it. What does it mean? It's an odd word, granted, but it is in the Oxford English Dictionary. It just isn't used much anymore. Echo will explain..."

Suzanne Ross of the Raven Foundation wrote in her *Reflection on Eleemosynary*: "... it functions more as a direct challenge to our need to be in control of a play's meaning. By refusing to give us a hint about what to expect, this play is asserting itself from the start. "Don't think you know what I'm about," this title seems to say. "I will tell you in my own good time."

Lee Blessing is an American playwright, not terribly well known in the UK. However, he has written over 40 plays, the most famous of which is *A Walk in The Woods* adapted as a TV film in 1989 starring Sam Waterstone and Robert Prosky (not to be confused with the Bill Bryson book and film of the same title).

*Eleemosynary* was written in 1985 and is one of his most acclaimed works, having received four L.A. Drama Critics Circle Awards including Best Play. What drew me to the text, from the moment I read it, was how relatable and universal the themes were: family dysfunction, the search for self-identity, and the impact of generational differences.

The relationship between mothers and daughters can be an uneasy one. It is unique in its complexity and intensity, often bouncing between nurturing support and conflict throughout a lifetime.

*Eleemosynary* is an extraordinary observation of this complex relationship, and the use of language and the significance of words, particularly through Echo's character, really help to highlight the power and importance of communication and understanding in bridging generational gaps.

As Dorothea puts in "We all try to be just right, just what the next one needs. And we never come close."

I have been blessed with such support for this production. From the production team to the 3 fantastic actors who put up with my many meandering thoughts, I thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Abi



**Directed by Abi Linnartz** — Abi has appeared for Maskers in *Absurd Person Singular* and *Gormenghast* at the Studio and stage-managed *Copenhagen*, as well as portraying the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* and Aramis in *The Three Musketeers* at Townhill Park House. Abi has also performed with a variety of drama companies throughout the area such as Southampton University Players, RAODS and with Titchfield Festival Theatre, where she also directed *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* at the Great Barn. This is her first time directing for Maskers and she is very excited to be exploring this fascinating play with her extremely talented cast.

## Upcoming Production



**MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE**

off Emsworth Road, Shirley, SO15 3LX

**26 to 28 June & 1 to 5 July**

Evening and matinee performances - see website for details & times

Full details and on-line booking at:  
**maskers.org.uk**

Tickets £16.50  
Registered charity 900067

Telephone booking:  
**0333 666 3366**

This amateur production of "The Secret Garden" is presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books



## Human Flight



Dorothea is not the only person to have been consumed with a passion to fly—or at least to have someone else fly—with wings rather than an aircraft. Apparently an English king, King Bladud, was killed in BCE 852 trying to fly.

For many centuries, humans have tried to fly just like the birds. Wings made of feathers or light weight wood have been attached to arms to test their ability to fly. The results were often disastrous as the muscles of the human arms are not like a birds and can not move with the strength of a bird.

Leonardo da Vinci made the first real studies of flight in the 1480's. He had over 100 drawings that illustrated his theories on flight. The Ornithopter flying machine was never actually created. It was a design that Leonardo da Vinci created to show how man could fly. The modern day helicopter is based on this.

In 1891 German engineer, Otto Lilienthal, studied and worked to design a glider that would fly. He was the first person to design a glider that could fly a person and was able to fly long distances. After more than 2500 flights, he was killed when he lost control because of a sudden strong wind and crashed into the ground.

Lilienthal's glider



The annual Icarus Cup competition, staged by the British Human Powered Flying Club, is the pinnacle of UK pedal-powered flight. The Lazurus was Southampton University's entry for 2022. It managed flights of up to half a minute.



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5:00 - 7:00

**FRIDAY (TERA TIME) - COMPANY (7-18)**  
4:30 - 6:30

**SATURDAY (TERA TIME) - IMPROV CLUB (10-)**  
1:30 - 3:00 (monthly)

MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY  
OFF ENSWORTH ROAD, SHIRLEY

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# OPEN HOUSE

*technical devices, costume displays, behind the scenes & chats & more*

**Shirley's own studio theatre opens its doors to everyone!**

**FREE ENTRY - All welcome!**

**Next sessions**  
**Saturday 2nd May/ 6th June**  
**10am - 1pm.**

## The Cast



**Dorothea** played by **Dawn Gatrell** — Dawn previously performed in pantos and in *The Shadow Factory*, which premiered at the Nuffield City Theatre. Dawn joined Maskers in August 2022 and has since appeared in a variety of productions: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Gormenghast*, *Time and Tide*, *Almost, Maine*, *Cash on Delivery*, *Murder in the Studio* and *Winter Sparkles*. She's looking forward to giving full rein to her free-spirited character, Dorothea, in *Eleemosynary*.



**Artemis 'Artie'** played by **Kate Grundy-Garcia** — Kate has been a Masker on and off for about 35 years and more recently has played Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Ruth Condomine in *Blithe Spirit* and, most recently, Jane in Alan Ayckbourn's 1970s farce, *Absurd Person Singular*. She is now playing a role which is her most challenging yet; a 7-year-old, a teenager and the mother of a 24-year-old, all rolled into one, in this sensitive and thought-provoking play.



**Echo** played by **Harley Harding** — Harley first discovered her love for performing through a variety of local youth theatre groups and has been passionate about the stage from a young age. Harley went on to study Acting at university, where she developed her skills and deepened her appreciation for all aspects of performance. Previous roles include Ariel in *The Tempest*, Roland in *Constellations* and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*. Harley is thrilled to be stepping into her second production with the Maskers, after joining us last year for *Supernatural Secrets*. In *Eleemosynary*, she has enjoyed exploring the complexities of a richly-layered and challenging character.

**Please note that an artificial cigarette is smoked in this play.  
No harmful smoke is emitted.**

**THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF 20 MINUTES**

## The Production Team

**Director**  
**Production Manager**  
**Stage Manager**  
**Lighting Design**  
**Sound Design**  
**Lighting and Sound Operators**

Abi Linnartz  
Duncan Randall  
Donald Coe  
Clive Weeks  
Jamie McCarthy  
Max Margererson, Daniel Dick, Maria McKay  
Abi Linnartz, Clive Weeks  
Clive Weeks, Duncan Randall, Jill Desborough, Donald Coe  
The Cast  
Lucy Lockyer and the Cast  
Abi Linnartz, Clive Weeks  
Donald Coe, Ian Wilson  
Donald Coe

**Set Design**  
**Set Construction**

**Costume**  
**Properties**  
**Poster Design**  
**Show Photography**  
**Rehearsal Prompt**

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## Acknowledgements

Maskers are grateful to:

Sheana Carrington for the loan of the flying helmet

William Baggs for his helpful feedback and support to the director.



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**For the Maskers** **Technical Manager:-** Jamie McCarthy; **Lighting Consultant:-**

Clive Weeks; **Sound Consultant:-** Jamie McCarthy;

**Marketing Team:-** Jenni Prior, Angela Stansbridge, Clive Weeks, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker; Tash Priddle; Maddy Cope; **Front of House Manager:-** James Lawson; **Box Office Manager:-** Chris Baker; **Photographers:-** Clive Weeks, Donald Coe, Ian Wilson; **Bar Manager:-** Meri Mackney  
**Tuesday Set-Building Team:-** Clive Weeks, Brian Stansbridge, Martin Caveney, Martyn Welch, William Baggs, with help from other Maskers